

I would like to read the list of the fallen so that we take the time to honor each individual lost and remember the tremendous losses their families and communities have suffered:

Lance Corporal Timothy M. Bell, Jr.; Lance Corporal Eric J. Bernholtz; Corporal Dustin A. Derga; Lance Corporal Nicholas B. Erdy; Lance Corporal Wesley G. Davids; Sergeant David N. Wimberg; Lance Corporal Michael J. Cifuentes; Lance Corporal Christopher J. Dyer; Lance Corporal Jonathan W. Grant; Sergeant David Kenneth J. Kreuter; Lance Corporal Jourdan L. Grez; Private First Class Christopher R. Dixon.

Lance Corporal Christopher P. Lyons; Staff Sergeant Anthony L. Goodwin; Petty Officer 3rd Class Travis Youngblood; Sergeant Justin F. Hoffman; Staff Sergeant Kendall H. Ivy III; Lance Corporal Nicholas William B. Bloem; Corporal Andre L. Williams; Lance Corporal Grant B. Fraser; Lance Corporal Aaron H. Reed; Lance Corporal Edward A. Schroeder II; and Lance Corporal William B. Wightman.

These men have touched the hearts of people around Ohio as we have collectively grieved their passing. One such person who has exhibited her sincere dedication to the sacrifices of these men is Anita Miller, a liturgical artist who resides in Columbus.

Like everyone in Ohio, Anita knew the devastating losses that the Lima Company family has endured during the Iraq War and the impact that these losses have had on our communities.

Anita awoke one morning in October of 2005 with the idea of creating a lasting memorial to honor the Lima Company. She has used her immense talents to create an octagon Memorial, consisting of eight panels that depict each of the fallen Marines and Corpsman, with a candle and bronzed combat boots in front of each portrait. A shelf at the bottom of the panel will allow for flowers or mementos to be left by the public.

The memorial will be unveiled in the rotunda of the Ohio Statehouse on Friday and thereafter be a mobile memorial similar to the traveling Vietnam Memorial so that people around Ohio and the United States have an opportunity to pay tribute to Lima Company.

I know that every American joins me in remembering our men and women in uniform not just on Memorial Day, but every day, for what they have sacrificed and fought for in giving us the freedoms we hold so dear.

As we celebrate Memorial Day, I hope that memorials such as the Lima Company Traveling Memorial and services and parades around the country allow us to pay tribute to all of the men and women who have sacrificed their lives for our country.

HONORING STEVE MILLER

HON. GEOFF DAVIS

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 22, 2008

Mr. DAVIS of Kentucky. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Steve Miller, an outstanding community leader in Kentucky's Fourth District. After 22 years as the Executive Director of the Buffalo Trace Area Development District, Steve is retiring to pursue other interests and spend time with family.

After obtaining a degree in Urban Planning at Murray State University in 1977, Steve

began his career with the Buffalo Trace Area Development District as a Transportation Planner. While completing a graduate degree in Economic Development, Steve became Associate Director, a title that he held from 1980 to 1986. Since 1986, Steve has been the Executive Director of the Buffalo Trace Area Development District.

Over the course of his 31 year career with the Buffalo Trace ADD, Steve has assisted in the development of six industrial parks, the construction of hundreds of miles of water lines, the fulfillment of several downtown revitalization projects, the inception of groundbreaking workforce development programs and many other initiatives. Steve's contributions to Bracken, Fleming, Lewis, Mason and Robertson counties are innumerable, and the families of this region live a better life today because of him. I would like to thank Mr. Stephen Miller for his extraordinary service to the entire Buffalo Trace region and to wish him the very best in his next adventure.

HONORING ELWOOD A.D. "WOODY" LECHAUSSE

HON. JOE COURTNEY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 22, 2008

Mr. COURTNEY. Madam Speaker, it is with great sadness that I rise today to honor Elwood A.D. "Woody" Lechause of Enfield, Connecticut, who passed away over the weekend at the West Haven VA Medical Center.

For nearly 35 years, Connecticut veterans could rely on Woody to be their staunchest advocate in the state house and here in Congress. A veteran himself, Woody served in the United States Army from 1958 to 1965, during which he served as a Sergeant in Izmir, Turkey, in Fort Campbell, Kentucky with the 101st Airborne Division, and Quin Huon, South Vietnam with the 178th Signal (Spt) 39th Signal Battalion. He returned home to Connecticut and, fueled with his desire to improve the lives of all those who have served our nation, began a long and storied career as a rigorous and unyielding voice for improving our nation's treatment of our veterans.

As a member of several veterans service organizations, such as the Disabled American Veterans, Veterans of Foreign Wars, 82nd Airborne Division Association and the Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 120, Woody served in countless leadership roles on both the state and national levels. Although a fighter on behalf of all those who wore our nation's uniform, Woody was especially dedicated to addressing the difficulties faced by our disabled veterans and those who returned home with Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) and other mental health challenges from their combat experience.

Woody served on numerous government agencies, boards and taskforces that helped make tangible improvements in the health care, support and commemoration of all our veterans. And for his work, he was continually honored at all levels, most recently by being permanently inducted into the Connecticut Veterans Hall of Fame in 2007.

I was honored to meet with Woody on numerous occasions both in Washington and Connecticut, and work with him closely on ef-

forts to improve the quality of life for veterans in Connecticut and across the Nation. He was a trusted advisor to the members and staff of Connecticut's congressional delegation, and could always be relied on to help inform us of the needs of our veterans and help "get the word out" through his dialogue with veterans organizations and updates to his diverse and wide-ranging email list.

Madam Speaker, all of us in Connecticut have lost a friend, a mentor and an unmatched voice on behalf of our veterans. I ask all my colleagues to join me in expressing our sincere condolence to Woody's wife Kathryn, his sons James and Ralph, and all his friends and families during this difficult time. And, I urge all my colleagues to honor Woody's service to our nation and lifetime of advocacy on behalf of our Nation's veterans.

SUPPORT OUR TROOPS IN THE WAR AGAINST ALS

HON. BOB ETHERIDGE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 22, 2008

Mr. ETHERIDGE. Madam Speaker, as you know, amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS) is a devastating disease, affecting as many as 30,000 Americans. What you may not know is that military veterans are at greater risk of ALS than those who have never served in the military.

A study by the Department of Defense (DOD) and Veterans Administration (VA) found that those who served in the 1991 Gulf War are approximately twice as likely to die from ALS as those who did not serve in the Gulf. Harvard University researchers found that, regardless of where or when they served, veterans are more likely to be diagnosed with ALS than the general public. Current research shows that ALS is occurring at greater rates in those who are serving in the current conflict in Iraq.

The Department of Defense recognized this risk by establishing the ALS Research Program (ALSRP) last year and provided \$5 million to conduct research into new treatments and a deeper understanding of the disease. The ALSRP will benefit those who served our country with better medical care, and will also give hope to all whose lives have been touched by the disease, regardless of military service.

Congress should send a clear message of support to our men and women serving in the military and continue funding for this important medical initiative. I urge my colleagues to provide funding in the 2009 Defense Appropriations Act to continue this innovative research partnership, which leverages DOD resources with scientific expertise in the private sector and at universities. This research will enable us to take action to protect our soldiers and veterans by determining why they are at greater risk, and will give us tools to treat all those who suffer from this disease.

We need to continue to wage a war against ALS, the disease that took the life of baseball greats Lou Gehrig and North Carolina's own Jim "Catfish" Hunter, as well as many other American heroes great and small. I knew "Catfish" and he was a good man, and he would be proud of the work that our local ALS

Association Chapter is doing in his name. The ALS Association is the world leader in ALS research and patient care services. The Carolinas' Jim "Catfish" Hunter Chapter of the ALS Association raises awareness and gives support to people with ALS and their families throughout North and South Carolina. For each of the past two years, it has been named as "Chapter of the Year," and their work alerted me to this important veteran's issue.

Madam Speaker, with your leadership, the support of our colleagues in Congress, and the help of activists at the grass roots level, we have a real shot at conquering ALS for our military veterans and citizens alike.

VETERANS BENEFITS AWARENESS ACT OF 2008

SPEECH OF

HON. RON KLEIN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 20, 2008

Mr. KLEIN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 3681, the Veterans Benefits Awareness Act of 2008, which passed the House of Representatives this week.

Fifty veterans move to Florida every day, and I am honored to represent thousands who served our country honorably in our Nation's military. The efforts of military veterans have provided Americans with security and peace of mind, and I remain eternally grateful for their sacrifices.

I believe that America owes its military heroes a debt of gratitude, and that their priorities must be the Nation's top priorities. I am committed to making sure that members of the military and veterans receive the benefits that they deserve when they return home.

Several times per year, I am proud to convene my Congressional Veterans Advisory Groups in Broward and Palm Beach Counties to listen and learn about the needs of South Florida veterans. One of the most pressing issues that has repeatedly come up is the veterans' need to know more about their benefits. One solution to this problem is an awareness campaign to educate returning servicemembers about available benefits. The Veterans Benefits Awareness Act of 2008 does just that by allowing the Secretary of the VA to advertise and promote awareness of veterans' benefits.

I am proud to support H.R. 3681, the Veterans Benefits Awareness Act of 2008, because I believe that nothing should stand in the way between a veteran and the benefits that he or she deserves. This legislation will go a long way to help returning servicemembers and veterans in my district and throughout the country.

IN HONOR OF THE SESQUICENTENNIAL OF BAXTER SPRINGS, KANSAS

HON. NANCY E. BOYDA

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 22, 2008

Mrs. BOYDA of Kansas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the city of Baxter Springs, Kansas for their sesquicentennial.

One hundred fifty years ago, Baxter Springs was founded, and it was named in honor of its first settler, John Baxter. During this time there was a booming cattle trade in Kansas, with Baxter Springs being an important point of commerce for cattlemen from the south bringing their livestock to sell in Kansas City. In fact, Baxter Springs was one of the first "Cowtowns" founded in Kansas.

Should one have the chance to visit Baxter Springs, you would see the same scenic back-grounds of Kansas prairie and the Spring River that the first settlers of the city would have viewed. The river has played host to many of the town's events over the years, and also supported the town's first flour mill.

Many visitors have come through Baxter Springs while traveling on Route 66. The road is an important part of local, and national history with Americans traveling on Route 66 to destinations near and far, viewing some of the most beautiful sites that America has to offer.

There is a lot of history in the city of Baxter Springs, and it represents an important aspect of the State of Kansas. As the sesquicentennial slogan states, "150 years and only the beginning."

I offer my sincerest congratulations to Baxter Springs and I give my warmest wishes for the next 150 years.

RENEWABLE ENERGY AND JOB CREATION ACT OF 2008

SPEECH OF

HON. GENE GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 21, 2008

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I stand in strong support of H.R. 6049, the Renewable Energy and Job Creation Act of 2008.

I have always believed that as a Nation we should wean ourselves from our dependence on fossil fuels and invest in the energy of the future.

After several attempts, the House of Representatives has finally found an appropriate balance to promote the technologies of tomorrow in a way that will benefit our long term energy security.

This legislation has much to be proud of.

It will extend the tax credit for producing electricity from renewable sources of energy which will enable Texas—the Nation's number one producer of wind energy—to continue adding clean energy and jobs to our economy.

It also extends the investment tax credits for solar energy, fuel cells, and energy-efficient appliances for the home, and it creates new tax credits for plug-in hybrid vehicles and renewable energy tax-credit bonds.

And after learning of the unintended consequences that corn-based ethanol has had on our environment and global food prices, this legislation rightly includes a six-cent reduction in the ethanol tax credit and creates a new credit for the production of cellulosic biofuels.

Aside from energy provisions, I am pleased this legislation includes several sections extending benefits for members of the military and veterans.

Extension of the rules allowing military personnel to treat their combat pay as earned in-

come, extending specialized mortgage bond rules for veterans, as well as a provision allowing reservists to make penalty free withdrawals from the retirement accounts if called to active duty for 180 days or more will benefit those who have served our country, and provide added financial options for their families if necessary.

Finally, H.R. 6069 will extend the state and local sales tax deduction which assists taxpayers in Texas who do not pay a state income tax, and it provides almost \$10 billion of additional tax relief for individuals through an expansion of the refundable child tax credit and a new standard deduction for property taxes.

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank my good friend and colleague, Chairman RANGEL, for producing a bill that enhances our energy and job security and that has support from both sides of the aisle.

I urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

HONORING DR. CHARLES RUCH

HON. STEPHANIE HERSETH SANDLIN

OF SOUTH DAKOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 22, 2008

Ms. HERSETH SANDLIN. Madam Speaker, I want to take this opportunity to thank Dr. Charles Ruch for his nearly 5 years of service to the South Dakota School of Mines and Technology in Rapid City, South Dakota. Dr. Ruch was installed as the school's seventeenth president on July 1, 2003. During his tenure at the School of Mines, Dr. Ruch led the institution in strengthening the undergraduate curriculum to ensure that students graduate with exceptional scientific training and real world skills. Dr. Ruch worked to improve and expand graduate programs and thereby increased the research activities taking place at the School of Mines. I appreciate Dr. Ruch's commitment to working closely with the Rapid City community, the state government and Board of Regents, the Congressional delegation, and other partners to enhance the reputation of the School of Mines as a teaching and research center of excellence.

I send best wishes and congratulations to Dr. Ruch on the occasion of his retirement.

EXPRESSING CONDOLENCES AND SYMPATHY TO THE PEOPLE OF SICHUAN PROVINCE, CHINA

SPEECH OF

HON. AL GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 20, 2008

Mr. AL GREEN of Texas. Madam Speaker, I am proud to support H. Res. 1195 and express my heartfelt sympathy for the many victims of the recent earthquake in China's Sichuan province. My prayers go out to all those who lost loved ones and property in this unfortunate tragedy, and it is my sincere hope that the people of the region will be able to recover quickly from the humanitarian crisis that has developed.